

small amounts in gold) showed the following

progression¹ : *Accounts of the Bank of the
Argentine Nation.*

1892	\$ 36,125,700	\$ 32,468,900	\$16,888,000
1896	55,800,900	66,380,800	36,805,000
1900	75,426,700	83,065,900	44,190,000
1904	145,909,900	161,522,700	51,257,000
1907	162,276,600	214,022,200	55,057,400

The Banks of Chile.

Chile has been in recent years under the domination of government paper money and legal tender bank-notes, in spite of the comparative wealth and prosperity of the republic among other South American countries. Free banking existed in Chile up to 1839, when a law was passed forbidding the creation of banks of issue without the authority of the governor of the municipality or department where they were established. A general reform of the banking system was made by the law of July 23, 1860, under the inspiration of M. Courcelle-Seneuil*. This law limited the maximum circulation to one and one-half times the capital of the banks and provided that the notes should be redeemable in specie, and in case of default should constitute a judgment (*litres ex&cutoires*) against the goods and persons of the proprietors. The issue of the notes was placed under the supervision of the public authorities by requiring the signature and seal of the superintendent of the mint. Shareholders were liable only for the amount of their shares, loans to officers and directors were required to be specially recorded, and the books and cash were to be open to government inspection.⁸ These regulations are still in force, but the readjustment of the monetary standard has led to some recent changes in the provisions governing the circulation.

¹ *Bulletin of the Bureau of American Republics*, March, 1908 XXVI., 514. ⁵¹ Levy, 291. ³ *Comptroller's Report, 1895*, Letter of Minister Edward H. Strobel, 68.